



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN TIP #2 FOR PARENTS

What Children (and Parents!) Should Know Before Kindergarten Starts

Sure, kindergarten will be jam-packed with learning. First, though, make sure your child knows a few key things before that big first day of school. Taking the time to prepare your child for this new kindergarten experience will help ensure that he or she benefits as much as possible from the opportunity.

What Children Need to Know Before Starting Kindergarten

- Know their name, address and phone number.
- Be able to tie their shoes and get their coats and boots on and off.
- Be able to use the bathroom and wash their hands.
- Have experiences cooperating with other children; wait their turn, work with others, share supplies, etc.
- Use language appropriately and extensively.
- Have a healthy feeling of self-worth and positive feelings of self and of others (“can-do” attitude).
- Have good health and good nutrition habits.
- Be a good listener.

Source: S.C. Department of Education & S.C. First Steps to School Readiness, 2004

What Parents Should Know Before Their Child Starts Kindergarten

- When to register for kindergarten.
- Which registration forms to fill out.
- Their child’s kindergarten teacher’s name (once assigned).
- Which immunizations are required.
- A description of the kindergarten program.
- The kindergarten schedule and a daily schedule.
- Transportation procedures.
- Food service arrangements.
- Ways to become more involved in the child’s education and the school.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, www.ed.gov

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South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is a comprehensive, results-oriented statewide education initiative to help prepare children to reach school healthy and ready to succeed. Along with partner EdVenture Children’s Museum, First Steps designed the Countdown to Kindergarten program to leverage local resources to help prepare S.C.’s most at-risk children for kindergarten, to target early parent involvement and increase community awareness of the importance of school readiness. More than 1,200 children and their families across the state will participate in this year’s Countdown program. Countdown teachers conduct a series of eight visits to each participating family’s home to prepare the child for starting school and open the relationship with the child’s family.

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